

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/825,100

Examiner

Kaveh Abrishamkar

Applicant(s)

HANNA ET AL.

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment dated on 12/27/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,4,8-12,14,16,18 and 20-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 3/23/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

CHRISTOPHER REVAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Cel 3/26/06

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Sorkin (Registration No. 39,039) on March 23, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

3. Claim 19 is cancelled by virtue of this Examiner's Amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
5. The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claim limitations, as recited in independent claims 4, 16, 18, 20, and 21, and subsequent dependent claims.

The CPA does not teach or suggest a method, system, or apparatus which evaluates a set of credentials comprising at least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource and includes ascertaining at least one **explicitly included**

trust rating which represents a level of confidence within the respective credential.

Furthermore, the CPA does not teach that in the event that the set of credentials comprise a plurality of different certification paths, a third trust rating for the respective path which is set equal to the lowest first trust rating in the credentials in that path. A second trust rating is then set to the highest of the third trust ratings for the plurality of certification paths, and if the second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria, then access to the resource is granted. This system of assigning different trust ratings to credentials in different certification paths is not disclosed in the CPA.

The present invention addresses the following drawbacks of prior art security mechanisms:

1) the lack of ability to evaluate a set of credentials containing at least one group credential by evaluating a level of confidence that should be given to the set of credentials in deciding whether or not to grant a user access to a protected resource.

Thus this invention provides a system and method for evaluating a set of credentials that includes at least one group credential by providing a trust rating for at least the group credential and other credentials, and establishing a trust rating for a plurality of certification paths if they exist within the set of credentials. An overall trust rating is established based on the highest composite trust rating among the different certification paths, and this overall trust rating is used to determine whether or not to grant a user access to a resource.

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6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaveh Abrishamkar whose telephone number is 571-272-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KA
03/23/2006

CHRISTOPHER REVAK
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